

* * * FOREIGN APPROVAL OF REPORTS * * *

1. Reports for "Foreign Trade" should not be submitted, in toto, to local government officials for checking. The officials concerned might infer that any objections they might have to parts of it will be respected; the risk of this is particularly high where communist-dominated areas are concerned.

2. To obtain statistical information and technically accurate statements of facts which are to be incorporated in a report and, at the same time, protect the Trade Commissioner's office from any possible loss of prestige suffered because an official resents the fact that his observations were not taken into account when the report was published, Trade Commissioners should seek the necessary facts without providing foreign government officials with a complete draft of the report. This can be done either by making appropriate extracts from it or by sending the official concerned a series of specific questions, the answers to which will be embodied in the report.

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